HOD ACTION: Council on Medical Education Report 8 adopted, and the remainder of the report filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

CME Report 8-I-18

Subject: Study of Medical Student, Resident, and Physician Suicide

Presented by: Carol Berkowitz, MD, Chair

American Medical Association (AMA) Policy D-345.984, “Study of Medical Student, Resident, and Physician Suicide,” states:

That our American Medical Association determine the most efficient and accurate mechanism to study the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide, and report back at the 2018 Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates with recommendations for action.

This policy resulted from Resolution 019-A-18, which called for our AMA to conduct a study to accurately quantify the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide. Testimony on this item was unanimously supportive during the hearing of the Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws at the 2018 AMA Annual Meeting. In its report, the Reference Committee noted the severity of the issue of physician suicide and the significant need for attention to this problem. However, our AMA does not generally conduct independent empirical research. Therefore, the Reference Committee suggested amending Resolution 019-A-18 so that the AMA could determine the most efficient and accurate mechanism to accurately quantify the actual incidence of medical student, resident, and physician suicide. Your Reference Committee consequently recommended adoption with this amendment and a directive to report back findings at the 2018 Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD).

The AMA Council on Medical Education recognizes the salience and timeliness of this topic and agrees that appropriate resources should be dedicated to identify these mechanisms for study. However, meaningful and constructive review of this issue, and of the work done to date by other organizations, will require additional time. The Council therefore will present a report on this issue at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the HOD.

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